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Views of young people transitioning from the care of Oranga Tamariki to independent living

Findings from the 2021 *Just Sayin'* survey

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Findings from thematic reports from *Just Sayin'* 2021 and in-depth interviews

Views of young people transitioning from the care of Oranga Tamariki to independent living

Thematic reports focus on three groups of rangatahi

- young people from **rainbow communities**

 - Just Sayin' 2021 data (63 young people as part of rainbow communities)

- young people in **Youth Justice** residences

 - Interview with 17 young people and 19 staff in Youth Justice residences

 - Just Sayin' 2021 responses from 24 rangatahi who were in a Youth Justice residence

- rangatahi **Māori and Pacific** young people

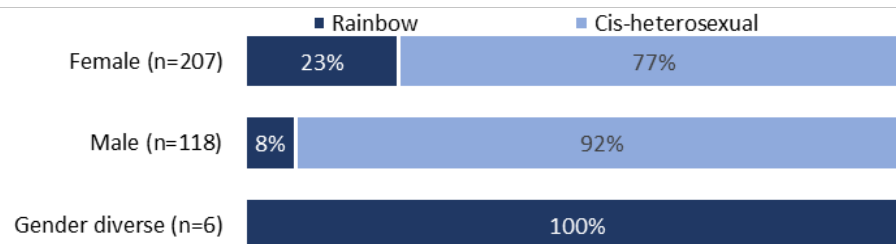
 - interview with 17 young people

 - Just Sayin' data (201 responses from rangatahi Māori and 44 from Pacific young people)

Understanding the transition needs of rainbow young people

- Rainbow young people are over-represented in care

19% of 331 respondents considered themselves as part of rainbow communities



- Rainbow participants reported doing well in many areas of their transition from Oranga Tamariki care
 - **87%** were in some form of schooling or work; **67%** said their health needs were met
 - Those doing well feel safe and comfortable where they live and have built successful relationships with their Social Worker and Transition Worker

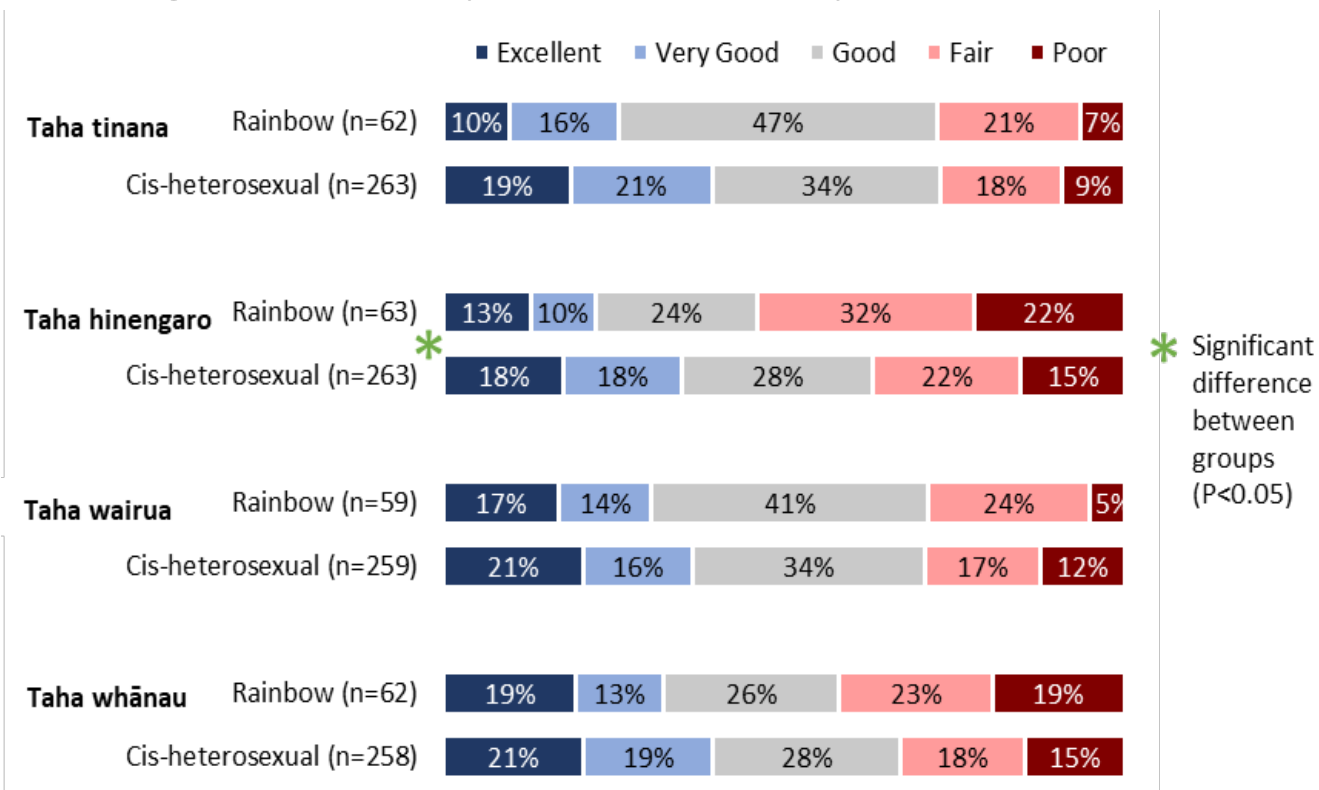
Because she [social worker] is hardworking, she treats me like a person not a job and she is just an awesome person and I feel happy around her (young person)

Transition needs of rainbow young people (continued)

- However, not everyone is doing well; **73%** reported a disability

Rainbow young people were less positive about their wellbeing

54% self-assessed their taha hinengaro as *poor* or *fair*



- The findings highlight the need to ensure that rainbow young people:
 - have access to support from social workers and transition workers who understand their needs
 - are a focus on the work on disability

Understanding the transition needs of rangatahi in Youth Justice facilities

... I just stayed in the background [at FGC] 'cause they don't get it. Like talking to them or talking to people who don't have similar [experiences] to me they just don't understand me. (Rangatahi)

- Young people had a long history of care experiences and complex needs
- Many rangatahi had nowhere to go after leaving a Youth Justice residence
 - If I turn 18 [while I'm in here], I'll go straight to prison from here, then I'm on district so it could be two years, three years... It is [hard not knowing what's going to happen]. (Rangatahi)*
- Uncertainties on rangatahi length of stay in residences and where they will go to when discharged adds complexity to the transition process
- **63%** had a Transition Worker, **74%** had talked to someone about a plan for leaving the residence and **22%** had a copy of their plan for leaving care
- Rangatahi who felt their voices were heard during the planning process were more likely to engage with their plans and have plans that reflected in their goals

Transition needs of rangatahi in Youth Justice facilities (continued)

- Rangatahi wanted practical skills: driving, budgeting, and employment in construction
- For some, their time in the residence had provided opportunities to reconnect with education and to change their lives

There are good times [and] bad times. For some people, it's a detention centre and then for some people it's like a recovery centre. For me at first it was like detention. I was getting corrected for what I was doing. But now, after a longer time in here, this becomes home. (Rangatahi)

- The report highlights that:
 - being in a Youth Justice residence adds complexity to the transition process
 - a confusion around the roles/responsibilities of Youth Justice & Transition Workers
 - rangatahi need intensive support immediately on leaving a Youth Justice residence
 - Transition Workers may need additional skills/experiences; e.g. 50% of the rangatahi in this group reported some form of disability

Understanding the transition needs of Māori and Pacific young people

- The report highlights:

- the challenging and complex lived realities of this group of young people

Being Māori, it's alright. I just don't like how people look at me, like I'm going to do something. Looking at me weirdly like I'm going to do something bad. People judge you before they even know you, talk shit. (Rangatahi)

- the high level of disengagement from education of many young people in care

42% rangatahi Māori and **48%** Pacific young people were in education or training

- complex health and social needs and the support they need during transition

26% rangatahi Māori, **27%** of Pacific young people self-identified challenges with two or more disability categories

Approximately **50%** reported receiving the health support they needed

- young people's experiences of transition support were very positive, noted as being invaluable in supporting rangatahi across multiple aspects of their lives

78% of rangatahi Māori, **84%** of Pacific young people had *a say in important decisions about their lives*

Just Sayin' 3

- Starts **2 May 2022** until mid-June, available from this link: [Just Sayin'](#)
- Target group includes rangatahi eligible for a Transition Worker, those rangatahi who have been in care or custody under the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989
- Responses to the survey are anonymous

Rangatahi still in care

Rangatahi can complete survey online

They can call an 0800 number to complete the survey with an interviewer

They can also wait and be called and invited to complete the interview

Rangatahi who have left care

Oranga Tamariki communicates information about the survey to TSS partners, Transition Workers, care partners and carers

Caregivers requested to pass information on to rangatahi, and tips to support participation

TSS partners requested if they can actively promote the survey to rangatahi they support using their preferred approach

Rangatahi with no contact details and not supported by a transition worker

VOYCE and other organisations that support rangatahi with care experience are requested to send through their social media channels

Rangatahi will receive a koha for completing the survey

***Just Sayin'* is one component of the evaluation of transition support services provided to young people**

Other evaluation activities

- Regional case studies are underway in four study sites: Auckland, Christchurch, Bay of Plenty, and West Coast and Nelson Marlborough region
 - Transitional needs of specific priority groups
 - Interface between Oranga Tamariki and TSS partners, and transition support provided
 - TS partners supporting rangatahi based on anonymised client level data from TSS partner
- Quantitative analysis is being scoped
 - Assessing early indicators for outcomes from TSS
 - Use data from IDI such as, education, health, employment, justice etc.

A synthesis of findings from the data/insights till date is consolidated in the [Evaluation Synthesis Report](#)

The TSS service had been established

The support matched the needs of rangatahi: help with life skills and becoming independent, obtaining ID documents, goal setting and help with work, education/training

Promising indications that TSS has improved outcomes for young people leaving care

Pre-transition planning was not yet consistent, with variations in practice noted



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READ OUR RESEARCH:

Check out the Research web page at www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/about-us/research/our-research/

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